**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MAY 17, 2021**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the reading of the following Sunshine Law announcement: ***“I would like to announce and have placed in the minutes that adequate notice of this regular in person meeting of the Califon Borough Council has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the annual notice in the Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat.”***

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: J. COLLINS, E. HAVERSANG, L. JANAS, M. MEDEA,**

**C. SMITH**

**ABSENT: R. BAGGSTROM**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by J. Collins to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 3, 2021.

For: J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $152,164.74.

For: J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT**

The Tax Collector’s Report was reviewed and filed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

\_\_ Monthly Court report for month of April

\_\_ Applications for NJDOT Fiscal Year 2022 State Aid programs due July 1st

\_\_ meeting of the Hunterdon County Governing Officials Association on Tuesday, May 25th

\_\_ American Rescue Plan; State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; to help remedy the disparity of Pandemic costs and shortfalls of revenue providing $350 billion in emergency funding

\_\_ Police report for month of April; 717 cases

\_\_Executive Order of Governor Murphy implementing second phase of Covid-19 Restriction easing

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2021-05 – AUTHORIZING PLANNING BOARD TO EXERCISE ALL POWERS OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**The Clerk read Ordinance 2021-05 by title: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BY ELIMINATING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AS A SEPARATE ENTITY AND AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING BOARD TO EXERCISE ALL OF THE POWERS OF AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION.**

The mayor opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-05. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-60**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2021-05 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BY ELIMINATING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AS A SEPARATE ENTITY AND AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING BOARD TO EXERCISE ALL OF THE POWERS OF AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION** is hereby adopted upon final reading; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Notice of Final Passage of Ordinance 2021-05 is to be published in the May 26, 2021 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2021-60 as read.

For: J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Daniel informed Council members that Mary Phillips has resigned from the Planning Board. Mayor Daniel asked for recommendations for volunteers who may be interested in filling the 3 vacancies on the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION CHAPRPERSON, LORI JENSSEN, TO APPLY FOR A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

Prior to the Council meeting, Mayor and Council were in receipt of a memorandum from Environmental Commission Secretary, Karen Mastro, explaining that the Environmental Commission is interested in applying for a grant through the National Environment Education Foundation. The grant is capped at $2,500 and funds, if approved, are to be spent to support public lands that have been impacted by increased use during the Covid 19 pandemic. Lori Jenssen, Chair of the EC has volunteered her grant writing expertise and, if authorized by Council, will do the work of applying on behalf of Califon; deadline is June 1st.

Councilman Collins, EC liaison, explained this program in more detail and Council engaged in a discussion of some ideas for use of these funds, if approved: park benches, tables, and mulch in the playground. Council has authorized Lori Jenssen to write the grant application by the deadline of June 1st.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-61**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon has approved the submission of an application to the National Environment Education Foundation for a grant up to the amount of $2,500 to support public lands that have been impacted by increased use during the Covid 19 pandemic; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Lori Jenssen, Chairperson of the Califon Environmental Commission is hereby authorized to complete and submit the application to the NEEF by the deadline of June 1, 2021.

Motion was made by J. Collins seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2021-61 as read.

For: J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the newly formed Parks and Recreation Committee met for their Reorganization and 1st regular meeting and spoke about plans for Memorial Day. The parade will not take place this year, due to ongoing concerns about the pandemic. Flags will

be hung on Main St. and on the bridge and there will be a Memorial wall placed in the park in back of the PO with ribbons to be hung on the wall highlighting veterans who were lost in wars.

Residents will be encouraged to decorate their homes as well.

The Parks and Recreation Committee is looking forward to making plans for holding the Street Fair in the fall.

Councilman Medea discussed the recent vandalism at the park; graffiti on the floor and posts of the pavilion, etc. The Police Chief will be asked to put the cameras back up in a couple of locations.

Councilman Haversang reported that he had missed the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. Councilman Haversang is interested in pursuing, a walking trail through the woods behind the Nellie Hoffman open space property. Since the land is co-owned by the Borough and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, Julie Shelly from the NJWSA will be contacted to determine the process for this project going forward. Councilman Haversang also expressed concern about the amount of fishing line that is getting into the river. He would like to see tubes for discarding fishing line placed at various locations along the river.

Councilman Janas reported that there will be a Planning Board meeting on May 19th via Zoom.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Board of Education held a meeting on May 12th. At this meeting, they approve tuition rates for 2021-22:

Full day preschool - $5500

½ day preschool - $4000

K-grade 5 - $6500

Grades 6-8 - $7000

The BOE approved three field trips: Dorney Park, a River walk and a Poets walk

Councilman Collins thanked Lori Jenssen for offering to write and submit the application for a NEEF grant. During the most recent Environmental Commission meeting, students from the H.C. Vocation School – the Environmental Science Academy joined the membership’s meeting and it proved to be a nice collaboration.

There was a brief discussion regarding the recent episodes of brown water affecting Borough residents. It was decided that a representative from Aqua NJ will be asked to attend a Council meeting for the purpose of determining the cause of the brown water, as well as asking questions about the absorbent fees for fire hydrants service.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel would like the Council to engage in an in-depth conversation about the recent Cannabis legislation. The Council will need to decide whether or not to opt-in or opt-out. Mayor Daniel printed out a power point presentation of an informative webinar on the subject that he and the Clerk attended.

Mayor Daniel reported that Jessica Beard would like to have lawn signs printed up with pictures of the graduates from both Califon School and Voorhees High school. Ms. Beard did this last year also and would like the tradition to continue. She has asked if the Mayor and Council would approve this expenditure out of the town’s budget. The signs are $14 each x 40 signs = $560. Council discussed and agreed to pay for the signs this year out of “celebration of public events” line item.

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

In answer to a question brought up at the last meeting, Borough attorney Andersen confirmed that the education requirement for a new Planning Board member is within 18 months after their appointment. It is not mandatory for Council liaison to take the course but they can if so chooses.

Mr. Anderson reported that he set up a wi-fi for the Municipal bldg. that works off of the network. He recommended purchasing a wi-fi camera.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**None**

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas and unanimously accepted to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator